

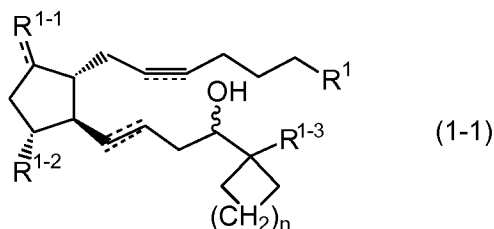
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-34 (Canceled)

35. (Currently amended) A method for treating ~~cartilage-related~~ cartilage disease, which consists of administering a composition consisting of a substance, as an active ingredient, having an EP2 agonist activity selected from a compound represented by formula (1-1)



wherein R¹ is carboxy or hydroxymethyl, R¹⁻¹ is oxo, methylene or a halogen atom, R¹⁻² is hydrogen atom, hydroxy or a C1-4 alkoxy, R¹⁻³ is hydrogen atom, a C1-8 alkyl, a C2-8 alkenyl, a C2-8 alkynyl, or a C1-8 alkyl, a C2-8 alkenyl or a C2-8 alkynyl substituted by 1-3 substituents selected from the following (1) to (5): (1) a halogen atom, (2) a C1-4 alkoxy, (3) a C3-7 cycloalkyl, (4) phenyl or (5) phenyl substituted by 1-3 substituents selected from a halogen atom, a C1-4 alkyl, a C1-4 alkoxy, nitro or trifluoromethyl; n is 0 or 1-4; with the proviso that (1) when 5-6 position is a triple bond, 13-14 position is not a triple bond, (2) when 13-14 position is a double bond, the double bond represents E form, Z form or a mixture of EZ form

or a salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier,

to a subject in need of stimulating chondrocyte growth,

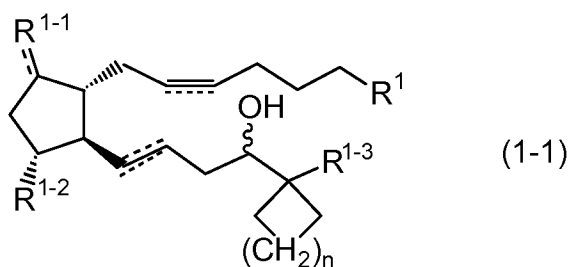
wherein said ~~cartilage-related~~ cartilage disease is selected from the group consisting of rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, cartilage damage, articular disk damage, meniscus injury, chondrodysplasia, achondroplasia, achondrogenesis, dyschondrogenesis, chondrodystrophia, articular chondrocalcinosis, acute purulent arthritis, tuberculous arthritis, syphilitic arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, spondylosis deformans, and disk herniation, ~~cartilage injury by sports and keypuncher's disease.~~

36. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 35, wherein the compound represented by formula (1-1) is one or more compounds selected from

(1) (5Z,9β,11α,13E)-17,17-propano-11,16-dihydroxy-9-chloro-20-norprosta-5,13-dienoic acid, and

(2) (5Z,9β,11α,13E)-17,17-propano-11,16-dihydroxy-9-chloroprosta-5,13,19-trienoic acid,
or a salt thereof.

37. (Currently Amended) A method for treating cartilage disorder, which consists of administering a composition consisting of a compound represented by formula (1-1)

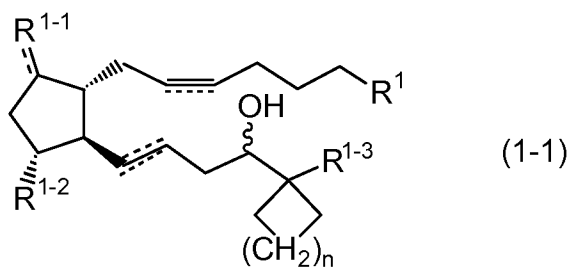


~~wherein all symbols have the same meanings as those described in Claim 35~~

wherein R^1 is carboxy or hydroxymethyl, R^{1-1} is oxo, methylene or a halogen atom, R^{1-2} is hydrogen atom, hydroxy or a C1-4 alkoxy, R^{1-3} is hydrogen atom, a C1-8 alkyl, a C2-8 alkenyl, a C2-8 alkynyl, or a C1-8 alkyl, a C2-8 alkenyl or a C2-8 alkynyl substituted by 1-3 substituents selected from the following (1) to (5): (1) a halogen atom, (2) a C1-4 alkoxy, (3) a C3-7 cycloalkyl, (4) phenyl or (5) phenyl substituted by 1-3 substituents selected from a halogen atom, a C1-4 alkyl, a C1-4 alkoxy, nitro or trifluoromethyl; n is 0 or 1-4; with the proviso that (1) when 5-6 position is a triple bond, 13-14 position is not a triple bond, (2) when 13-14 position is a double bond, the double bond represents E form, Z form or a mixture of EZ form

or a salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier,
to a subject in need of stimulating chondrocyte growth.

38. (Currently Amended) A method for stimulating chondrogenesis, stimulating chondrocyte growth, stimulating chondrocyte differentiation, inhibiting cartilage calcification and/or inhibiting cartilage degradation, which consists of administering a composition consisting of a compound represented by formula (1-1)



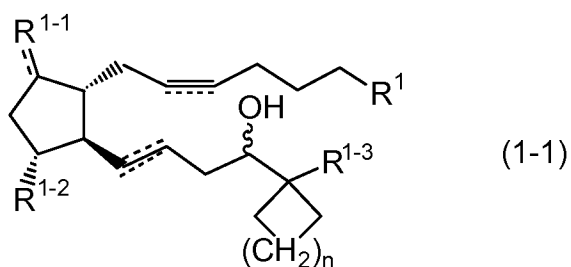
~~wherein all symbols have the same meanings as those described in Claim 35~~

wherein R^1 is carboxy or hydroxymethyl, R^{1-1} is oxo, methylene or a halogen atom, R^{1-2} is hydrogen atom, hydroxy or a C1-4 alkoxy, R^{1-3} is a hydrogen atom, a C1-8 alkyl, a C2-8 alkenyl, a C2-8 alkynyl, or a C1-8 alkyl, a C2-8 alkenyl or a C2-8 alkynyl substituted by 1-3

substituents selected from the following (1) to (5): (1) a halogen atom, (2) a C1-4 alkoxy, (3) a C3-7 cycloalkyl, (4) phenyl or (5) phenyl substituted by 1-3 substituents selected from a halogen atom, a C1-4 alkyl, a C1-4 alkoxy, nitro or trifluoromethyl; n is 0 or 1-4; with the proviso that (1) when 5-6 position is a triple bond, 13-14 position is not a triple bond, (2) when 13-14 position is a double bond, the double bond represents E form, Z form or a mixture of EZ form

or a salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier,
to a subject in need of stimulating chondrocyte growth.

39. (Currently Amended) A method for stimulating integrin mRNA expression, stimulating fibronectin mRNA expression, stimulating cyclin D1 mRNA expression and/or inhibiting osteopontin mRNA expression, which consists of administering a composition consisting of a compound represented by formula (1-1)



~~wherein all symbols have the same meanings as those described in Claim 35~~

wherein R¹ is carboxy or hydroxymethyl, R¹⁻¹ is oxo, methylene or a halogen atom, R¹⁻² is hydrogen atom, hydroxy or a C1-4 alkoxy, R¹⁻³ is hydrogen atom, a C1-8 alkyl, a C2-8 alkenyl, a C2-8 alkynyl, or a C1-8 alkyl, a C2-8 alkenyl or a C2-8 alkynyl substituted by 1-3 substituents selected from the following (1) to (5): (1) a halogen atom, (2) a C1-4 alkoxy, (3) a C3-7 cycloalkyl, (4) phenyl or (5) phenyl substituted by 1-3 substituents selected from a halogen atom, a C1-4 alkyl, a C1-4 alkoxy, nitro or trifluoromethyl; n is 0 or 1-4; with the proviso that (1)

when 5-6 position is a triple bond, 13-14 position is not a triple bond, (2) when 13-14 position is a double bond, the double bond represents E form, Z form or a mixture of EZ form

or a salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier,
to a subject in need of stimulating chondrocyte growth.

40. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 38, wherein one or more selected from the stimulation of chondrogenesis, stimulation of chondrocyte growth, stimulation of chondrocyte differentiation, inhibition of cartilage calcification, and inhibition of cartilage degradation is/are correlated with one or more selected from actions of stimulating integrin mRNA expression, stimulating fibronectin mRNA expression, stimulating cyclin D1 mRNA expression and inhibiting osteopontin mRNA expression on a chondrocyte or a cartilage tissue, by the composition of ~~claim 38~~.

41. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 40, wherein the stimulation of chondrocyte growth is correlated with the action of stimulating cyclin D1 mRNA expression by the composition of ~~claim 38~~.

42. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 40, wherein the inhibition of cartilage calcification is correlated with the action of inhibiting osteopontin mRNA expression by the composition of ~~claim 38~~.